

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA, FAVORING THE RETENTION, STORAGE AND TREATMENT OF WATER NORTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE.

WHEREAS, 95 percent of all water flowing into Lake Okeechobee originates mostly from the Orlando-Kissimmee Basin north of the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the remaining 5 percent of the water that originates from communities south of Lake Okeechobee is strictly controlled by the South Florida Water Management District to protect the region from catastrophic flooding; and

WHEREAS, Everglades Agricultural Area farmers have paid for 100 percent of the Best Management Practices they use to clean their water in addition to an agricultural privilege tax of \$25 per acre per year, raising \$200 million for Everglades restoration efforts on top of the \$200 million invested in on-farm efforts to clean water and research for a total of \$400 million, which is the most private dollars committed to Everglades restoration in history.

WHEREAS, communities like ours surrounding Lake Okeechobee rely on a healthy and clean lake for health, boating, fishing and other recreational activities and tourism; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 all City of Clewiston residences and businesses are on the City's sewer system, and the City of Clewiston provides sewer services to adjacent unincorporated areas of Hendry County. The City of Clewiston therefore urges all towns in the South Florida Water Management District area to do the same so that our water supply is not tainted by leaching septic systems.

WHEREAS, the City of Clewiston, Florida, recognizes that local vegetable and sugarcane farmers have set the standard as environmental stewards of their agricultural lands and are not to blame for the "dirty" water that flows east and west into the coastal waterways, and that our farmers have been held responsible for cleaning the water that flows south from their lands to protect the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clewiston, Florida, acknowledging the value of all affected communities working toward a favorable solution, deems it necessary to address the quality of water flows originating north of Lake Okeechobee; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District have already commenced planning and engineering for water storage and treatment projects north of Lake Okeechobee as part of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project will:

- dramatically reduce harmful discharges at a significantly lower cost than the EAA Reservoir
- improve water quality in Lake Okeechobee by capturing, storing and treating the water before it enters the Lake
- help maintain healthy lake levels
- reduce the frequency of high lake discharges by over 50 percent without harming agricultural production or displacing local jobs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA, that harmful water should be retained, stored and treated before it reaches Lake Okeechobee to save the Lake, all connected waterways and the Everglades.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Clewiston, Florida, this 17th day of April, 2017.

CITY OF CLEWISTON, FLORIDA

By: Mali Gardner
Mali Gardner, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: Mary K. Combass
Mary K. Combass, Interim City Clerk

(MUNICIPAL SEAL)

